

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows, a copy of the revised Abstract without underlining and strike through or double bracketed text is provided as an attachment hereto:

The present invention concerns a method for altering characteristics of a plant. The invention describes the identification of a gene[[s]] that ~~is~~ are upregulated or downregulated in transgenic plants overexpressing E2Fa/DPa and the use of such sequences to alter plant characteristics. A preferred way for altering characteristics of a plant comprises modifying expression of one or more nucleic acid sequences and or modifying level and/or activity of one or more proteins, which nucleic acids and/or proteins encoded thereby are essentially similar to ~~any one or more of~~ SEQ ID NO 18354 to 2755. ~~The~~ Some of the gene[[s]] identified in the present invention have an E2Fa target consensus sequence in their 5' upstream region. The identified gene[[s]] is ~~postulated to~~ play a role in a variety of biological processes, such as DNA replication, cell wall biosynthesis, nitrogen and/or carbon metabolism, as transcription factors[[ etc]].